



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

June 16, 2010

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit herewith, with my disapproval, 2010 H 7007, as amended, "An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Historian Laureate of Rhode Island."

This Act would create the post of Historian Laureate of Rhode Island. The Historian Laureate would be appointed for a term of five years by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would issue an appointment certificate to the Historian Laureate bearing the seal of the State of Rhode Island.

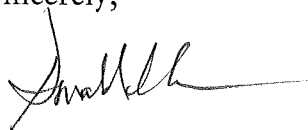
I have previously voice my opposition to this bill and the reasons remain the same. First, some of the criteria for occupying the post do not guarantee excellence. For example, an Historian could be appointed who merely helped stage commemorative observances of historical events. While commendable, such event planning does not necessarily require either broad historical knowledge or deep scholarship. Second, for better or worse, the selection of the Historian Laureate places the State's imprimatur on the historical views and interpretations of a single person. In this regard, the lack of serious qualifications for the job is especially troubling. Third, the position is unnecessary. People actively engaged in studying and teaching do not need a government position from which to share their knowledge of and enthusiasm for history of Rhode Island.

Finally, this appointment should be vested in the Governor, as is the appointment of the Poet Laureate. This appointment gives the state's imprimatur to the views of one historian. This choice rightly belongs to the state's chief elected official.

June 16, 2010
Page Two
H 7007, as amended

Accordingly, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald L. Carcieri", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor